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Agenda item 78

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Pakistan*: draft resolution

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/164 of 19 December 1991, in which it expressed its conviction that a world-wide conference with broad, multidisciplinary and high-level participation could provide a suitable forum for considering the current situation in the planning, development and management of human settlements, and decided to consider the question at its forty-seventh session with a view to taking a decision on the objectives, content, scope and timing of such a conference and the modalities and financial implications thereof,

Recalling also the recommendations adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, 1/ which up to now has formed the main basis of international cooperation in the field of human settlements,

Noting the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which has given impetus to human settlements as the physical

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

1/ See Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum).

framework for sustainable development, the proper management of which is a prerequisite to the attainment of overall sustainable development goals,

Recognizing that environment and development is for the welfare of the human being and that in implementing the consensus of the Rio Conference in the area of human settlements the centre-piece of development must be the human being,

Noting that since Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, there have been important changes in the perception of human settlements, problems and their solutions, including, in particular, the introduction of the concept of enabling strategies,

Noting with concern that in many developing countries the achievements in terms of policies, programmes and projects at the national level in the field of human settlements have not been sufficient to arrest or reverse the deterioration in the living environment of the people because of the pressure of population growth and urbanization and because the resource requirements for human settlement programmes far exceed the availability of resources in developing countries,

Cognizant of the continuing rapid rate of urbanization and population increase in the developing countries leading to the emergence and spread of large urban agglomerations and their adverse implications on the supply of adequate shelter, environmental infrastructure and services for the people, as well as on their employment prospects,

Convinced of the need in the present context to reassess and systematically review human settlement policies and programmes in the light of new developments and trends in international economic relations and population and migration patterns, as well as the recurrence of natural disasters,

Recognizing the importance of giving due consideration to country-specific characteristics such as the natural environment, the economic structure, the endogenous material base and the culture in the development and application of technology, planning and management, in the area of human settlements,

Noting that the indicative external financial resource requirements for the implementation of the programmes contained in chapter 7 of Agenda 21 2/ and the provision of such resources will enable the mobilization of resources locally,

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2/ See A/CONF.151/26 (vol. I), annex II, sect. I.

Stressing the need for strengthened international cooperation for urgent and effective measures for the transfer of technology to the developing countries on concessional and preferential terms, and for the development of appropriate technologies, including the promotion of technology research and policy reform,

Stressing the importance of technical cooperation among developing countries in the promotion of transfer of technology, research, skill development and the use of endogenous capacity in developing countries,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on a United Nations conference on human settlements (Habitat II), 3/

1. Decides to convene the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996, at the highest possible level of participation;

2. Decides that the Conference, in addressing human settlements issues in the context of sustainable development, should have the following objectives:

(a) In the long term, to arrest the deterioration of global human settlements conditions and ultimately create the conditions for achieving improvements in the living environment of all people on a sustainable basis with special attention to the needs and contributions of vulnerable social groups whose quality of life and participation in development has been hampered by exclusion and inequality, including the poor in general and women;

(b) In the immediate term, to adopt a general statement of principles and commitments by Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and formulate a related global plan of action capable of guiding national and international efforts through the first two decades of the next century. Such a plan of action should include:

(i) A comprehensive set of programmes and subprogrammes, with realistic targets and timetables, and provision for monitoring and evaluation of performance;

(ii) Guidelines for national settlement policies and strategies which can effectively contribute to the alleviation of urban and rural poverty and the promotion of a sustainable economic development process with due consideration given to the growth and distribution of population, the urban transition, natural disasters, the availability of land and other resources and the interest of major groups, particularly women;

3/ A/47/360.

(iii) Programmes and subprogrammes relating to new and emerging issues of technologies, including the impact of the current communication and informatics revolution, energy, transportation and environmental infrastructure, namely, water supply, sanitation and waste management;

(iv) Programmes and subprogrammes that would carry forward relevant elements of Agenda 21 to promote the development of environmentally sustainable human settlements in the future;

(v) An indication of overall resource requirements, including ways and means to mobilize the necessary human, financial and technical resources within the framework of the enabling concept and the commitments of new and additional resources for the implementation of Agenda 21 programmes, with due consideration given to the importance of self-reliance and innovative approaches such as debt relief for human settlements;

(vi) Measures for the reorganization and strengthening of national, metropolitan and municipal institutions and machinery to enhance the development of human settlements and operations capabilities;

(vii) Recommendations on ways in which the role of the United Nations and existing institutional arrangements for international cooperation and coordination in human settlements can be strengthened;

3. Affirms that the Conference should, inter alia:

(a) Review trends in policies and programmes undertaken by countries and international organizations to implement the recommendations adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements;

(b) Conduct a mid-term review of the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 4/ and make recommendations for attaining its objectives by the target date;

(c) Review the contribution of national and international action in the area of human settlements to the implementation of Agenda 21;

(d) Review current global trends in economic and social development as they affect planning, development and management of human settlements and make recommendations for future action at the national and international level;

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/43/8/Add.1).

4. Decides to establish a Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly to prepare for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II); the Preparatory Committee will be open to all States Members of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly;

5. Decides that the Preparatory Committee shall hold an organizational session of one week's duration in May/June 1993 and a final substantive session in 1995, both at United Nations Headquarters, and two additional substantive sessions, the first at Nairobi in early 1994 and the second at Geneva, the timing and duration of which shall be determined by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session;

6. Decides that the Preparatory Committee, at its organizational session, shall elect, with due regard to equitable geographic representation, the Chairman and other members of its Bureau, comprising an appropriate number of Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur;

7. Notes with appreciation the generous offer made by the Government of Turkey to act as host for the Conference and decides that the Conference will be held in Turkey in 1996;

8. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, following the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee, to establish an appropriate ad hoc secretariat for the Conference, which shall be organizationally part of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), with a unit in New York and another unit at Geneva, as appropriate, taking into account the decisions to be made by the Preparatory Committee regarding the preparatory process for the Conference and based on the principle of equitable geographic representation;

9. Decides that the ad hoc secretariat will be headed by a Secretary-General of the Conference to be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

10. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare a report for the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee, containing recommendations on an adequate preparatory process, taking into account the provisions of the present resolution and the views expressed by Governments in the discussion of this item at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly;

11. Decides that the Preparatory Committee shall:

(a) Draft the provisional agenda of the Conference, in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution;

(b) Adopt guidelines to enable States to take a harmonized approach in their preparations and reporting;

(c) Prepare draft decisions, including the plan of action, for the Conference and submit them to the Conference for consideration and adoption;

12. Requests all the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant intergovernmental organizations, to cooperate with the secretariat of the Conference and contribute fully to the preparations of the Conference on the basis of guidelines and requirements to be established by the Preparatory Committee;

13. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ensure the coordination of contributions from the United Nations system, through the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

14. Invites all States to take an active part in the preparations for the Conference, to prepare national reports, as appropriate, to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee in a timely manner and to promote international cooperation and broad-based national preparatory processes involving the scientific community, industry, trade unions and concerned non-governmental organizations;

15. Requests relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to participate and contribute to the Conference;

16. Stresses the importance of holding regional and subregional conferences on human settlements, with the full cooperation of the regional commissions, and recommends that the results of such regional conferences be taken into account in the preparatory process for the Conference;

17. Decides that the preparatory process and the Conference itself should be funded through the regular budget of the United Nations without adversely affecting other ongoing activities and without prejudice to the provision of sources of extrabudgetary resources;

18. Decides to establish a voluntary fund for the purpose of supporting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the Conference and in its preparatory process, and invites Governments to contribute to the fund;

19. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth, forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions on the progress of the work of the Preparatory Committee;

20. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth, forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions an item entitled "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)".